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Monday, July 25 2011

## Assemblyman Rich Gordon's bill supporting local control and consolidation of special districts signed by Governor Brown Featured

(SACRAMENTO) Today, Governor Brown signed into law a bill authored by Assemblyman Rich Gordon (Menlo Park) that will increase local control over special districts and allow government resources to be used more efficiently. While AB 912 only makes a minor procedural change to the Government Code, the law will ultimately help facilitate the dissolution of certain extraneous special districts allowing local governments to deliver services more effectively.

Most often, special district reorganization is initiated by a commission or district analysis calling for improved service delivery, cost savings, or efficiencies of scale. This process is overseen by a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo). AB 912 will allow LAFCos to bypass expensive special elections when commission reports recommend dissolution, and a majority of the voters or landowners of a district do not protest the action.

"I believe AB 912 follows through on the original intent of LAFCos," said Assemblyman Gordon, who also serves on the Assembly Local Government Committee. "This law will allow local governments to save hundreds of thousands of dollars on special elections while not compromising government accountability or transparency."

Contra Costa LAFCo sent a letter to Governor Brown urging him to sign AB 912 calling the legislation a "valuable tool."

Supported by the California Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCos) and California Special Districts Association (CSDA), AB 912 passed through the State Assembly and Senate unanimously.

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*Assemblyman Rich Gordon represents the 21st Assembly District, which includes much of Silicon Valley, including the communities of San Carlos, Redwood City, Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Woodside, East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Monte Sereno, Los Gatos and the Almaden Valley.*

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